



ETIENNE PROVOT

(Taken from Castonguay's *Les Voyageurs*)

Tribes of North America." Utah seems to have been first suggested as the name of the lake by Jedediah Strong Smith, a partner of Ashley. In a letter addressed to General William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, giving an account of an exploring expedition from Great Salt Lake to the Pacific Ocean, he states that he started "about the 22nd of August, 1826, with a party of fifteen men, and that he passed the "Little Uta Lake". Ashley's river is presumably the Sevier, which, however, does not empty into Utah Lake but into Sevier Lake. Smith's mistake in this matter may be due to the fact that he seems to have reached the Sevier river where it flows north after passing Utah Lake.

ETIENNE PROVOT, HUNTER AND TRAPPER

Among the hardy men who trapped and hunted in the Rocky Mountain region during the first half of the Nineteenth Century were many French Canadians and Creoles, among whom was Etienne Provot (pronounced Provo). It is probable that Provo River and Provo Valley, and later Provo City derived their name from this man. There is another story, but far less credible, that Colonel John C. Fremont named the river "Proveau" for a valuable horse which he had purchased from a Frenchman of that name, and which had died and been buried near the stream. A third theory has recently been suggested—that the name Provo had been derived from the name of an Indian chief. The Indian, however, was not a prominent character;



ARTIST'S SKETCH of Etienne Provost (also spelled Provot and Proveaux), trapper - explorer who came into Utah and camped on the shores of Utah Lake in 1824. It is for him that Provo and Provo River are named.